

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 2A. This sheet replaces the previously submitted sheet of Figure 2A. In Figure 2A, the previously submitted lock and removable base have been replaced with a single block indicated as "L." Element "S" has been replaced with a single block. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment may be found for example, at page 7, lines 25-29 and Figure 2A of the specification. Figure 2A has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 31 are pending.

Applicants further request the rejoinder of claims 10-30. Claims 10-30 are directed to carrier features, namely the docking system, the controller, an air tube system and a method of transferring security documents.

SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the amendment filed on June 27, 2006 alleging that the amendment introduces new matter into the disclosure. See Office Action at p. 2. Specifically, the Examiner contends that "the introduction of the commercial Bi-Lock™" is not supported by the original disclosure." *Id.* Applicants disagree with the Examiner.

In an effort to expedite prosecution and not in acquiescence to the objection, Applicants have amended the specification to remove the reference to the trademarked "bi-lock" term. Applicants however maintain that the term "bi-lock" is understood by a person of skill in the art to include the "commercial Bi-Lock™." No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

DRAWINGS

The Examiner has maintained the objection to the proposed drawing amendment of June 27, 2006 as containing new matter. See Office Action at p.2. The Examiner has further objected to the drawings as "[t]he shutter mechanisms of claim(s) 4 have not been adequately depicted; in particular, the closing mechanism." *Id.* The drawings are further objected to as "nothing in the drawings reflect[s] that the base of claim(s) 1 is removable." See Office Action at p. 2. The Examiner further requires that "the lock of claim(s) 1" be shown in the drawings. See Office Action at p. 2-3. A replacement sheet for Figure 2A is provided. Figure 2A has been amended

to show the shutter mechanism of claim 4, in particular the closing mechanism and the lock of claim 1. See attached Replacement Sheet. No new matter has been added.

The shutter mechanism of claim 4, in particular the closing mechanism, is adequately depicted. Replacement Fig. 2A shows that the shutter is retained in an open position using latch 17D (see Replacement Drawing submitted herewith). When the latch 17D is released (as shown by the dotted lines in Fig. 2A), the shutter 17B is automatically urged into a closed position by a biasing means such as the spring biasing means, S. See page 8, lines 3-10. Thus, Replacement Fig. 2A adequately depicts a spring biasing means, S and the closing mechanism.

Replacement Fig. 2A also depicts the removable base described in claim 1. Base 18 is shown in both dotted lines and solid lines. The dotted lines indicate the removed base 18. The solid lines show base 18 when it is mounted to the carrier. The lock for retaining the base in place is also depicted in Fig. 2A as L. Support for the removable base can be found at, for example, page 7, lines 25-29. Support for the lock that retains the base in place can be found at, for example, page 7, lines 27-28.

Thus, the specification supports the amendments to the drawings and that no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner has again rejected claims 1-5, 7-9 and 31 "as failing to comply with the enablement requirement." See Office Action at p. 3. The Examiner indicates that this rejection is "substantially as applied on 3/29/06." See Office Action at p. 4. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

A Notice of Appeal and a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review addressing this rejection was filed on December 13, 2006. Applicants received a Notice of Panel Decision from the Pre-Appeal Brief Review in which a panel comprising Examiners Meredith C. Petravick, Darnell Jayne and Joseph Dillon withdrew this rejection. As such, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,934,285 to Niehaus ("Niehaus"). See Office Action at p. 4. Claims 2-3 and 31 depend from independent claim 1.

Applicants have discovered a carrier for transferring security documents, the carrier being adapted for use in an air tube system, the air tube system having a tube for transporting the carrier from a source to a destination. The carrier includes a substantially cylindrically shaped housing defining an internal cavity, the housing being adapted to cooperate with the tube in use, to allow the carrier to be transported, a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, the lid including an aperture adapted to allow documents to be inserted into the cavity in use, a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first end, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity, and a lock for retaining the base in place.

Niehaus discloses "pneumatic tubular conveyors of the type used in steel mills for the transport of metal specimens to the chemical laboratory for metallurgical analysis." See col. 1, lines 15-17. Niehaus does not disclose a carrier that includes a lid coupled to a first end of the housing. Although the Examiner has indicated that element 2 of Niehaus is the lid (see Office Action at p. 4), the lid in Niehaus is not coupled to a first end of the housing but is coupled to the side of the housing. For this reason alone, claim 1 is clearly not anticipated by Niehaus.

Further, Niehaus does not teach a carrier which includes a lid coupled to a first end of the housing and a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first end. The Examiner has indicated that elements 10 and 11 of Niehaus refer to the base (see Office Action at p. 4). Elements 10 and 11 of Niehaus refer to a portion of cap 4 and a graphite impregnated bump cap respectively. See col. 2, lines 15-27 of Niehaus. Elements 10 and 11 are not removable to allow access to the cavity. The only removable element in Niehaus is the lid 2 and this does not constitute a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first end. For this reason alone, claim 1 is not anticipated by Niehaus.

The Examiner further points to element 13 as corresponding to a bilock. Element 13 is described as a washer assembly. See col. 2, line 27 of Niehaus. The washer assembly is used for retaining the graphite impregnated felt bump pads and is held in place by bolt. See col. 2, lines 26-27 of Niehaus. The washer assembly therefore does not constitute a lock. For this reason alone, claim 1 is not anticipated by Niehaus.

Accordingly, claim 1 and dependent claims therefore are not anticipated by Niehaus. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejection of claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 7-9 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Niehaus in view of either U.S. Patent No. 3,627,231 to Kalthoff ("Kalthoff") or U.S. Patent No. 5,864,485 to Hawthorne et al. ("Hawthorne"). See Office Action at p. 5. Claims 2-3, 7-9 and 31 depend from independent claim 1.

As previously discussed, Niehaus does not teach or suggest a carrier for transferring security documents that includes a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first end, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity, and a lock for retaining the base in place.

This defect is not remedied in Kalthoff or Hawthorne. Kalthoff discloses "article tracking and transfer systems and more particularly to pneumatic dispatch systems and to tracking systems having memory capabilities." See col. 1, lines 5-7 of Kalthoff. Kalthoff does not teach or suggest a carrier for transferring security documents that includes a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first end, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity, and a lock for retaining the base in place. Hawthorne discloses "pneumatic carrier systems and, more particularly, to detecting and alleviating gridlock conditions in pneumatic tube systems." See col. 1, lines 6-9 of Hawthorne. Hawthorne does not teach or suggest a carrier for transferring security documents that includes a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, a base removably mounted to a second

end of the housing opposite the first end, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity, and a lock for retaining the base in place.


None of the above-cited references, alone or in combination teach or suggest a carrier for transferring security documents that includes a lid coupled to a first end of the housing, a base removably mounted to a second end of the housing opposite the first end, the base being removable to allow access to the cavity, and a lock for retaining the base in place. As such, claim 1 and dependent claims therefrom are patentable over the combination of Niehaus, Kalthoff and Hawthorne for at least the reasons described above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the pending rejections. Applicants believe that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Should any fees be required by the present Reply, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account **19-4293**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6-6-07
Customer Number: 27890
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
1330 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: 202-429-3000
Fax: 202-429-3902


Harold H. Fox
Reg. No. 41,498